

**Present:** Alan Christensen, Suzanne Clarke (note taker), Jerald Dosch, Phil Grant (ex officio), Anthony Minus, Janelle Rohr, Linda Sellars, Joanne Smith (facilitator) , Karen Thompson (trustee). Meeting was in a hybrid format.

**Guests:** Zach Czaia, Kathy Goldenstein, Maggie Lee

**Introductions and Call to Order:** Members, guests, Phil Grant and Karen Thompson were all introduced. The guests are considering joining the Council in June.

**Reflection:** Joanne led us in the Prayer for Ukraine.

**Notes from February 24, 2022, meeting:** approved with one correction. Suzanne was not present.

**Listening Weekend Report:** Members engaged in social talk with some parishioners; no concerns were brought up. The concept of Listening Weekend was explained to guests.

**Updates and New Business:**

- **Finance Council Report**
  - January report was reviewed. Bids for the Parish Center roof will be obtained. Joe will be working with Phil, and possibly Bernie, on the new budget, due in August.
- **Synod**
  - Feedback from earlier processes: Karen, Joanne and Suzanne were anchors over the past few years. Eighty-four people participated in the fall meetings, including parish groups (Rosary, Men's Club, Faith Formation parents, etc.). Joanne reviewed the 3 foci: forming parishes in service of evangelization, forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to His call, forming youth and young adults in and for a church that is always young. The meeting at St. Matt's on Feb. 26 was challenging due to the Internet being down on the West Side. Also, there was frustration regarding not receiving feedback from our fall input, and electronic devices were required to participate and not everyone had them.
  - Next step: Entire archdiocesan meeting the first weekend of June. John Del Vecchio and Karen Thompson will be participating. Becky Montgomery is alternate.
  - Question about Pope Francis' Synod: Archbishop Hebda will take what we're doing and roll it into the larger Synod.
- **Parish website and social media accounts**
  - Who updates the website: It's difficult for a single person to keep up with the website. Richard Schletty is training a new person for this work.
  - Social media account: We don't have an administrator in place, and that won't be changing in the near future. Staff members in the past have created social media content, but this isn't currently being done. Our domain name will be renewed in the fall. It was suggested to mention the need for a social media volunteer to Mary Leibl.
  
- **Parish Office voicemail**

- Our current phone system is archaic and needs to be replaced. Updates are in the bulletin. We don't have final numbers yet to make a decision; options are being explored. This involves only the first floor of the Parish Center.
- Email addresses for staff are in the bulletin and phones are answered during office hours. Faith Formation parents are concerned because day Parish Center hours aren't convenient for them to call.
- A new system could be like a computer with portable phones. A cloud-based system would allow phones to work if the Internet was lost in the building.
- **Safety at St. Matthew**
  - There is the possibility of having someone do a pro-bono walk-through to check safety on campus.
  - Phil would like to research cameras and security systems, and asked who is interested in working with him. Send him ideas and questions, or volunteer to work with him on this need.
  - Motion detector lighting is inexpensive and doable.
  - Karen has talked with Tom Smith about training for ushers, others in church.
  - Question asked about having active shooter response training, for ushers and office volunteers.
- **New Parish Council member recruitment & orientation**
  - Outgoing members' last meeting is May.
  - Four people are interested, 2 would be returning members.
  - We have 7 members now, losing 3, gaining 4. We still need 1 more member to =9.
  - We'd like an announcement at Mass, seeking more members.
  - Orientation documents were developed and are available from Becky Montgomery.
  - We need a session about roles & responsibilities, constitution and bylaws.
  - Process calendar indicates Feb/March recruitment, decide by April, orientation meeting in May with explanation of consensus model. New members begin as of June 5, Pentecost.
  - Request was made for each member to think of one person to ask if they are interested in joining.
- **Community Building and Parish Council visibility**
  - Joanne emphasized "We're ready for community"!
  - She reminded us that, as leaders, the council needs to be an energizing force for community, and be more visible.
  - Upcoming opportunities: Fr. Steve's birthday celebrations April 23 & 24, restart of Coffee Sundays (when will it be possible?), Listening Weekend (could all 11 of us, current and incoming members, be present?)
  - Name Tags saying "Parish Council Member" are in the sacristy drawer; they could be paired with paper name tags with our individual names.
  - Listening Weekend needs to be announced at Masses.
  - Best idea is to do things in the church proper, or right outside with better weather, since going downstairs isn't popular with many people.
  - August Mass & Picnic in the Park: date and pavilion not yet reserved. Karen will talk with Fr. Steve.
  - Linda Rivera has declined a retirement event.
  - Concerts: April and May announced, hope the Metropolitan Symphony will return in the fall.
  - Hope to have a talk about church artwork in September by artists; this could be recorded for YouTube. Both in-person and on-line community building is possible.
  - Reviewing the first year of Phil's work with us: we've had 2 years of online Masses, progress on technology, enthusiasm about the future!

**Liaison Reports:**

- These were submitted by and to members before the meeting, via Google Doc.
- Loaves & Fishes: Jerald reports Ruffo's concerns about the stolen pop-up canopy. The parish will pay to replace the canopy; Ruffo should talk to the Loaves & Fishes program, they in turn will arrange with Phil. Question was raised about the mask requirement by Loaves & Fishes. The archdiocese has lifted requirements, so Loaves & Fishes policy would be followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 28, 2022, 7 p.m. Hybrid format; in-person at Parish Center; Zoom link to come.

Facilitator: Suzanne Clarke

Note taker: Linda Sellars